

ATHENS POST.

S. P. IVINS, Editor and Proprietor.

TERMS.—\$2 a year, payable within three months from the time of subscribing; \$3.50 in 6 months, or \$3 at the expiration of the year. No paper discontinued until all arrears are paid, except at the option of the Publisher.

For announcing the names of candidates for office \$3, Cash.

ATHENS, FRIDAY, MARCH 1, 1850.

Mr. H. W. KING is the authorized agent for this paper in the city of Philadelphia.

E. MITCHELL, JR., Charleston, S. C., will attend to any business for this paper in that city.

Mr. JAMES T. ASBURY, Sr., Kingston, Roane County, Tennessee, is authorized and requested to act as agent in procuring subscriptions for this paper.

We are authorized and requested to announce THOS. DUCKWORTH as a candidate for re-election to the office of Sheriff of McMinn county, at the ensuing March election.

We are authorized and requested to announce CHRISTIAN PETERS, as a candidate for re-election to the office of Sheriff of McMinn county at the ensuing March election.

We are authorized and requested to announce A. BARR, Esq., as a candidate for the office of County Trustee, at the ensuing March election.

We are authorized and requested to announce G. W. KIRKSEY as a candidate for re-election to the office of County Trustee for McMinn county.

We are authorized and requested to announce NOAH HIGDON as a candidate for Constable in the Town District, at the ensuing March election.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—The lines of 'E. L. M.' will appear next week.

CONGRESS.—On the 18th February the House of Representatives was in session until 12 o'clock at night, and great confusion is said to have prevailed. See letter of the Washington correspondent of the Charleston Courier, copied into another column.

COTTON.—Advices from New York to February 19, represent Cotton as having advanced an eighth of a cent.

CELEBRATION OF THE 22D FEBRUARY.

The anniversary of the Birth Day of the Father of his Country, was celebrated by the Masonic Fraternity of this place, with appropriate honors. The members of the Lodge formed in procession at the Court-house and marched to McGaughey's corner, preceded by the Brass Band, where they were joined by the Athens Division Sons of Temperance, who had been invited to participate in the proceedings. The procession then moved to the Presbyterian Church, where a large crowd had assembled to listen to an Address from THOS. J. CAMPBELL, JR., Esq., who had been selected as the orator for the occasion. Our knowledge of Mr. Campbell's attainments as a scholar and a gentleman of high intellectual capacities, led us to expect a good speech, and we were not disappointed. His effort of the 22d was one of which any man might be proud—the composition being faultless, and the manner of delivering it distinct, graceful, and impressive. It was listened to throughout by the large audience with the profoundest attention, and elicited their highest commendation. The Address will be published in pamphlet form in a few days, by order of the Lodge, and we advise all who had not the pleasure of hearing it, to try to secure a copy of it for perusal.

The whole proceedings were of the most interesting and pleasing character, as well as exceedingly appropriate to the occasion, and the audience retired after the conclusion evidently highly gratified, and their minds filled with the hallowed associations which we trust will ever be found clustering around the memory of the Great and Good Man, in commemoration of whose virtues and patriotism they had been called together.

ODD FELLOWS.—We understand that there will be a meeting of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows at this place, on Thursday the 7th of March, for the purpose of organizing a Lodge. Of our own knowledge we know nothing of the order of Odd Fellows, further than that one of its chief characteristics is Charity—not simply that charity which prompts man to extend a crumb to his fellow man, but of that more comprehensive and noiseless kind which, distilling gently as the dews of heaven, falls with a fertilizing influence around the human heart, teaching to do good to others, to pity and seek to restrain their faults, to encourage the virtuous and reform vice, and throw its protecting and sustaining mantle around the widow and the orphan. The Order is of comparatively recent origin, yet we believe has its votaries in every section of the Union, and has attained a high degree of popularity, which is the best commentary upon the objects of its institution.

NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 21.—The Gaines case, which has been in course of trial for a number of days, was decided this forenoon. The decree, which was against Mrs. Gaines at all points, was given by Judge McCaleb of the District Court. It is probable that there will be an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

DISSOLUTION OF THE UNION.

Our exchange papers for some time past have frequently been filled with articles in relation to the "probable dissolution of the Union!" We have seldom re-published any of these articles, and have refrained from indulging in any remarks of our own on the subject—not because we did not think it had assumed sufficient importance to elicit public attention generally, or that our readers did not feel as much interest in the matter as the people of any other section, or that they were indifferent to the deplorable contingency alluded to; but simply because we have always been adverse to the discussion of a question which seemed to look, even remotely, to Dissolution, and taught to regard such a catastrophe with horror, and as being impossible while love of country continued to be the predominating principle in the hearts of the American people. We recollect some years ago when Nullification reared its Gorgon head, and a few ambitious and misguided spirits talked about secession and dissolution, with what indignation their disorganizing sentiments were received in every direction, and by men of all parties; and we thought the experience of that day and the feeling manifested on that movement by the patriotic masses throughout the Union, were of a character sufficiently significant to prevent another contemplation of a similar result, at least during the succeeding fifty years. But in that respect, with many others, we were mistaken, and at this time in various sections "Dissolution of the Union" is becoming a familiar topic of conversation, and certain characters are beginning to speak of its value with the same seeming indifference that they would speak of the value of the Cotton crop of the South, or any other matter of dollars and cents. And what is it that has caused the idea of "Dissolution" to lose half its terrors, but the frequent recurrence to its possibility by a portion of the public press, by partisan speakers on the stump, and aspiring and heedless demagogues in the halls of Congress? Had an opposite course been pursued, had the public press and public men who pretended to espy the danger afar off, when really there was no danger, had they less frequently alluded to it, or when alluding to it regarded it as a contingency not likely to happen and not even seriously to be thought of, we should not now hear the cry daily coming from the South and the North, "The Republic is in danger," "The Union will be dissolved!" It is the unceasing cry of the alarmists that is precipitating whatever of danger there may be gathering over our country, by familiarizing the public mind with its contemplation, and imperceptibly leading it to regard it as an event which must come, with all its horrible evils, sooner or later. In our opinion, the true spirit of patriotism would dictate a different course, and teach to leave unuttered every sentiment which might have a tendency to weaken the bonds of Union.

But is there really as much danger that the "Union will be dissolved" as the cries of the alarmists would seem to indicate? Positively we think not. That there are serious difficulties ahead, perhaps close at hand, is not to be denied, and that there are men high in the estimation of the country, who are looking, and it may be laboring, for a dissolution of the Union, we think quite possible. But that their object will be effected, we will not allow ourselves to believe for a moment. The spirit of compromise by which the Union was formed and cemented together, is not entirely extinct, and love of country is still the predominating principle in the hearts of the patriotic masses. If some of the prominent men in the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States are willing to give up the UNION, the people are not, and when the question assumes a tangible shape, and is brought home to them, as it must be before the foul and treasonable act can be consummated, they will be found rallying around its standard, upholding and sustaining it. The Union was framed for the people—it is their inheritance, it belongs to them, and they alone can dissolve it, and until they shall give evidence that they desire its dissolution we will not believe there is any real danger. No matter how dark and threatening the clouds may be, we have full confidence in their power to preserve, maintain, and uphold.

In our immediate section we know there is but one sentiment. Whigs and Democrats, men, women, and children, are ALL for the UNION, and none, no not one, seriously contemplates its dissolution.

NEW ORLEANS, FEB. 20.—Three thousand bales Cotton sold yesterday at an advance of an eighth of a cent. The decline since the reception of the Europe's accounts fully recovered.

The loss by the recent conflagration has been much exaggerated. It is now said that the total loss only amounts to \$359,000.

Corn is selling at Macon, Ga., for 75 to 80 cents per bushel, and corn meal \$1, so great is the scarcity.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 18.

SENATE.—Mr. Clay presented a petition from a single individual, asking that the first Senator proposing a dissolution of the Union be expelled. The resolution was laid on the table.

FROM WASHINGTON.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18—10, p. m.

I write in the Hall of Representatives, the House having been in session ten hours, and being likely to sit ten hours more.

The struggle between the North and South has begun, this day. When and where it will end God only knows. This was the day, under the rules of the House, for the call of States for Resolutions. Mr. Doty, of Wisconsin, offered a resolution to refer the California Constitution to the Committee on Territories, with instructions to report a bill forthwith to admit California into the Union on an equal footing with the original States, and upon the terms proposed by her. The previous question was moved and seconded. At this point, the Southern men took a stand, which has been frequently referred to by me as the posture they intended to take. They resorted to Parliamentary tactics to obstruct the action of the House. Motions were made, in succession, to lay the resolution on the table, to call the House to adjourn, &c., and upon each of these motions the yeas and nays were demanded and ordered. These motions were repeated during the day, and now and then varied by a motion from a Southern member to be excused from voting, and a demand for the yeas and nays on that. Occasionally a Southern member would make a point of order, and no matter what the decision of the Chair might be, there would be an appeal and a demand for the yeas and nays.

The Southern members had more than a sufficient number on every count to demand the yeas and nays. Finally, no count was demanded, it being taken for granted that the Southern men would not give way; and the House, as soon as one call of the roll is finished, goes on with another, upon a mere motion.

The number of members in favor of the admission of California, voting in the House to-day, is about one hundred and twenty to seventy. The majority in favor of bringing California into the Union may be said to be about fifty. It does not follow that every one of the majority is in favor of bringing California into the Union, unconnected with any other measure. It is well known and understood here, that if California be admitted as a separate measure, it will defeat any compromise. After the North have got what they want, they will not trouble themselves further. The South is therefore determined to resist the admission of California, and resist in this, the only practicable way.

There is now less hope of a compromise than heretofore. It is feared that the resolutions of the New-York General Assembly have driven home the last nail. These resolutions, unless counteracted by the public voice, will go far to prevent any conciliation. At the same time, there are some favorable signs in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New-York, and Indiana, of a disposition, to arrest further agitation.

I am very glad to learn that Mr. Webster intends to offer a plan, which will be acceptable to the South; and that he will have the support of Gen. Greene, of Rhode Island, and Mr. Phelps, of Vermont, and that his scheme of compromise will command a majority in the Senate.

He is willing to keep California back, until the whole question is settled, and to settle it by one bill. The particular features of his plan have been shown to some members and Senators from the South and approved. Mr. Webster will not probably bring forward his project for some days.

In regard to the struggle now going on in the House, neither party shows any disposition to give way. As soon as this day is over, Day's resolution will cease to be in order. It cannot again come up till the next resolution day—two weeks hence.

Mr. McClelland, of Illinois, Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Affairs, has consulted with his Southern friends upon the following project, which Mr. McClelland is now laboring to render acceptable to the North, to wit:

Resolved, That the Committee on Territories be instructed to report a bill, without delay, providing for the admission of California as a State into the Union of the United States.

Also, a bill to legalize the Territorial Governments of New Mexico and Deseret, as adopted by the people of said Territories respectively, so far as the provisions of the same are consistent with the Constitution of the United States; and to provide for the future admission of said Territories, as States, into the Union of the United States—leaving the question of boundary between Texas and New Mexico, open for eventual decision, by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Mr. Calhoun was in the Senate Chamber, to-day. It is supposed that he will speak this week.

WASHINGTON, FEB. 23.

It is now understood here, that Mr. Clayton revoked his resignation, and that Gen. Taylor declined receiving it, until Mr. Clayton become a little calmer. But still it is generally supposed that the Cabinet cannot stand many months longer. The slavery question must alone serve to make a breach in it.

The recess of Congress for three days will, as one would suppose, tend to calm their agitation. They will go on very well,

doing nothing but making excited speeches, until the next black Monday. Then, it is to be apprehended that another scene of strife and confusion will be presented in the House. Many of the more considerate of the Northern members, admit that it was a mistake, on their part, to attempt to force the California question. They do not intend to delay the admission of California beyond the close of the present season; but they will attempt to effect a simultaneous adjustment of other questions, which agitate the country and excite the South.

The prospect now is, that Congress will discuss Mr. Clay's resolutions and the California question, for three months to come, and, by that time, the excitement, it is hoped, will so far subside as to permit legislation on territorial and other questions.

It is evident that the North has abandoned the Wilmot Proviso. The resolution of the New York Legislature, as explained by Mr. RAYMOND, of the Courier & Enquirer, who drew the second resolution, do not contain the Wilmot Proviso, as has been supposed; but it leaves their Senators free to oppose it, or vote for Clay's or General Taylor's plan of compromise. The stand made by the South, since this session commenced, has, therefore, utterly defeated the Proviso—there ought to be little difficulty, in procuring some adjustment of the other questions.—Cor. Char. Con.

MR. CLAY'S COMPROMISE.—A correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, rather democratic in his tendencies, writes from Washington, under date of the 15th, that "the statesmanlike, patriotic, Union views of Henry Clay, begin to be considered with more favor than at the beginning, and it is admitted by many Southern gentlemen, that with the omission of two or three lines, and one or two amendments, they might be accepted by the whole country as a suitable compromise for both great sections of the Union. Mr. Clay's majestic peroration yesterday, and the abolition movement to-day, have inclined the thinking portion of Congress, to rather follow the lead of an old and tried statesman, than follow in the wake of the abolitionists.

"Mr. Clay, take him all in all, is the greatest character in that Senate. Whether we agree with his reasoning or not, whether we admire his logic or feel disposed to dissent from his conclusions, there is a living faith in the old Kentuckian—a patriotic fire, from which many a great writing or ciphering statesman might light his tallow candle. A plague on those men with big words on their lips, and their hearts in their breeches! Old Harry Clay is right when he possesses the finality of the question instead of the settlement of it by peace-meal. The final encasement is the only one which will quiet agitation and make the North and South again feel as brothers and citizens of the same great and powerful country. If Clay's compromise resolutions be taken up, and adopted with suitable amendments, California will come in without a struggle, and such a consideration is certainly more desirable than the triumph that free-soilism would achieve by the immediate hot-haste admission of the gold land."

ST. AUGUSTINE, FEB. 16.

LATE INDIAN NEWS.—By the arrival at this place of Dr. B. M. Bryne, U. S. A. from Pease Creek, we learn that some 48 of Bow Legs' party have come into that post for the purpose of emigration to the West, and that no doubt is now entertained that the remaining Indians would speedily come in.

This is indeed most gratifying news and will be hailed with delight by the people of Florida, relieving us from an incubus which has long pressed upon us, and opening to our view bright prospects and the most hopeful anticipations.

Five persons, all in one family, residing about 4 miles from Helen, Ark., died of Cholera on the 10th instant.

WHAT A CHEAT IS HUMAN LIFE!—A pale brow droops, a bright eye grows dim, a young heart breaks slowly and silently, and then physicians are called in to give the disease a name; the learned men know nothing of the antecedents; the patient does not confide to them all the details of the past; not a syllable is breathed of the stimulated passion which awoke happiness and hope—not a word is murmured of the falsehood which left the venom to fester in the heart. And so they throng around the bed; and while the mother listens through her tears for one cheering prophecy, and the brother turns away too proud to betray his agony, they mock the victim—whose only cure must be the grave—with scientific subtleties and idle logic. And then comes the hearse, and the bed of earth—and the drama is played out and the curtain falls.

They who when about to marry, seek their happiness in the mere gaining of fortune and personal beauty, evince a symptom of a heartless disposition, and their folly is often punished in their success.

The House of Delegates of Virginia, on Saturday, passed a bill, by a vote of 78 to 52, to take the sense of the people on the propriety of calling a convention to amend the State Constitution.

SUSTAIN YOUR OWN.

Home industry, home enterprise and home trade, in the hands of worthy and competent men should always be nourished and supported by the community of which they constitute a portion. Many reasons can be adduced for the justice of this position. Do we propose to sustain men of integrity and high moral qualifications? In what soil do the moral sentiments flourish and grow with more vigour than in the hearts of toiling human beings, in the various branches of laborious industry or in the drudging professions? Who so richly deserve support as those who depend upon their daily labour for sustenance, and are always the submissive agents of the will of communities and individuals? An answer would be superfluous. If you wish to break down and ruin any country village, go to the city and purchase such articles of various kinds as are made at home by your own hard working neighbours, and leave them to receive the wretched depreciated patronage of such as are compelled to make exchanges to get along, and subsist upon mere barter deal. This is one excellent mode of ruining a place. But there is another road which leads you straight to the precious pool of conscious and active benevolence. Go to the weary artisan of your own town and buy his wares and articles, and pay him. Cheer his labours with a just compensation.—Give him a chance occasionally to see the light of hope through the clouds of care and poverty. A wife and children perhaps cling to him for the necessities of life. He may have wandered the weary journey of life until the sun of his existence has passed its meridian; his locks may be "intermingled with gray," and still he has no "shot in the locker." Most assuredly the good citizen and philanthropist will appropriate his influence, patronage, and money at home, in support of all the Mechanic Arts and Professions as much as is practicable or consistent. Example has its wonted effect in this matter, consequently we look to our townsmen of standing and character to give permanence and direction to the "Ball" of home industry and enterprise. It is for them to indicate by their acts, the success or failure of our stores, shops, Presses, and professions, and whether itinerant persons of unknown and doubtful reputation should possess so peculiar a charm as to secure their regard as well as money-patronage, while the worthy and qualified are among our number at home.

PATRIOTIC SENTIMENT.

We give below the conclusion of a speech delivered in the House of Representatives by Mr. McDowell, of Virginia, upon the slave controversy. The passage has been much and justly admired:

"It is said, sir, that at some dark hour of our revolutionary contest, when army after army had been lost, when dispirited, beaten, wretched, the hearts of the boldest and faithfullest died within them, and all, for an instant, seemed conquered, except the unconquerable soul of our father chief, it is said that at that moment, rising above all the auguries around him, and buoyed up by the inspiration of his immortal work for all the trials it could bring, he roused 'anew the sunken spirit of his associates by this confident and daring declaration:—'Strip me (said he) of the dejected and suffering remnant of my army—take from me all that I have left—leave me but a banner—give me but the means to plant it on the mountains of West Augusta, and I will yet draw around me the men who will lift up their bleeding country from the dust, and set her free.' Give to me, who am a son and representative here of that same West Augusta, give to me as a banner the propitious measure I have endeavored to support, help me to plant it upon this mountain top of our national power, and the land of Washington, undivided and unbroken, will be our land, and the land of our children's children forever. So help me to do this at this hour, and generations hence, some future representative of the South, standing where I stand in this same honored Hall, and in the midst of our legitimate successors, will bless and praise and thank God, that he, too, can say of them, as I of you, and of all around me. These, these, are my brethren, and this, this, too, is my country!"

THE SCHULTZ CASE.—The hopes of our old friend Schultz, whose success in the great Bridge Case, was considered by himself certain, some time since, and so heralded in our paper, have been crushed. He writes us by telegraph from Washington, under date of 21st inst., 4, 40 P. M., as follows: "Justice McLean, at this moment (12 o'clock) delivered a decision against me. All is lost."—Char. Cour.

The Post Office at Wheeling was robbed on Wednesday last, of the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars, taken from letters.

An editor out west who was recently elected to the Indiana Legislature from Wayne county was so elated with his success that he caught himself by the seat of his trousers and tried to hold himself out at arm's length. It is added in a postscript that he would have accomplished the feat, if he hadn't let go to spit on his hands.

When a man is not liked, whatever he does is amiss.

CALIFORNIA AND HER PROSPECTS.

The able and eloquent editor of the Baltimore American, in an article on California, says:

The commerce of the world is already affected sensibly by the developments of mineral wealth in California. The harbor of San Francisco is thronged with the shipping of all nations, and it has become the central point of trade which, to judge from its beginning, may one day become among the most extensive and the most lucrative ever enjoyed by the greatest cities. The glories of Tyro and of Carthage; the more modern splendors of Venice and Genoa; the massive opulence which has made London the imperial seat of commerce in our own days—these must hereafter all stand in a subordinated comparison with the future mistress of the Pacific seated by her mountains of gold.

To give permanence to the prosperity of California upon the scale of its present promise it is requisite that some more substantial depositary of her gold in treasures should be discovered than has yet been found in the sands of the Sacramento. It is believed that this discovery has been made and that in fact the placers, where gold dust and detached particles of gold of various sizes and dug from the alluvium, have received these deposits from the washings of the mountain in whose bosom, in whose very structure and substance, the mother veins of gold exist in combinations with rock and earth. Should this prove to be true, the business of mining will then become regular and permanent. Capital will be required to establish fixtures and machinery; and labor, no longer desultory and individual, will have to be directed by science and be steadily continued as a settled occupation. It must also follow that villages, towns and cities will grow up in the neighborhood of the richer mines, and the cultivation of the ground, to procure subsistence for a resident population, may be regarded as another result to be expected.

RECAPTURED.—We learn by a private letter from Kingston, Tenn., that the "desperate negro" Sam, who last summer was arrested by Low and Diggs, (after wounding the latter almost mortally, and being himself severely stabbed), and who subsequently miraculously escaped from the jail of Anderson county, has again been caught and is now confined in the prison at Kingston. We are informed that he was found in the woods by Adam Leath, and that so soon as he knew that he was seen by Leath, he prepared to "make battle," and awaiting until Leath came near him, he fired at him with a pistol, while at the same instant Leath discharged a rifle at him. Leath was himself missed, but the negro was less fortunate; the ball from the rifle having entered to the right of his stomach, passed around his ribs, lodging in his body. So soon as the negro fired and received his wound, he rushed upon Leath with his drawn butcher knife, and inflicted as many as half a dozen wounds upon different parts of his body. Leath finally, however, succeeded in overcoming him, and yet spared his life while he might have taken it. In this struggle, as in the one with Low and Diggs, the negro was aided by a white woman. The woman has fled or concealed herself, while the negro will we presume, be tried for a capital offence, provided the jail at Kingston can keep him until the day of trial.—Knox. Reg.

FOREIGN.—The America brings intelligence that Paris has been in a state of siege. The cause of this is stated to have been that the President of the Republic ordered the police to cut down the Liberty Poles that were erected during the Revolution. The people rose en masse and protested against the execution of the order.—One hundred thousand of the military were ordered out, which finally dispersed the mob; but not until several were wounded and some imprisoned. At the last dates, the city was under martial law, and in a state of quietude. There was considerable excitement existing against Louis Napoleon.

The French Monitor supposes that Louis Napoleon wishes to imitate his uncle, and thinks that from this proceeds the disturbance that has occurred.

The Arkansas Intelligencer says:—Farmers frequently notice that some of their neighbors slip to town and sell their produce when the price is up.—But they never notice how it is they always hit the market. The secret is very simple. They take the news paper.

A writer under the signature of Heroic Age, in the Washington Union, says he would as soon steal a sheep as hold office under General Taylor. We have no doubts that he would do either if he had a chance, but, as he has no chance for an office, we expect to hear of his engaging in the muton line.—Lou. Jour.